

The first Settler in the Little Levels was John Mc Neil who first appeared there in the year of 1765 . he was a native of Fredrick County Virginia , but passed much of his early life in or near Cumberland, Maryland. There is a tradition that he was a good boxer and in a pugilistic contest, his antagonist was so badly knocked out, that he was thought to be fatally injured. And to avoid arrest and trial for murder he at once refuged . He followed the trend of the Alleghanies . A long time was spent in their gloomy solitudes. Finly going deeper and deeper in into the wilderness he came at last in view of the Little Levels, about 1765, He saw an extensive , woodd plain, bordered m ountain ranges of unsurpassed beauty, and very fertile.

He decided to settle here; and chose a site for his cabin near the present home of the late Hon, M. J. McNeel , traces of his cabin have been seen by many persons yet living between the gate on the Public Road and his residence.

Here the solitary man brooded over his supposed guilt, prayed with his broken heart, for pardon, and hunted for his food, living almost entirely upon Fish and Venison; One day while Hunting to his surprise he met Charles and Edward Kinnison from his old home , who had come to thèè region prospecting for a favorable situation for a home. He at once learned from them that the person he had boxed with was not dead or even seriously hurt. This was indeed good news for him and then and there he felt free from all blood stains. John Mc Neel insisted upon his friends the two Kinnisons to take out a Tommahawk right adjoining his tract. tThen the three set out on their return to the Valley of Virginia. While on his visit John McNeel married Mary Davis , who was born in Wales in 1740 and soon after their marriage they came back to the Little Levels . A few acres was soon cleared off , and plenty to subsist upon was raised ; A few other folks began to move to the area and and john Mc Neel built a house for worship which was known as the "White Pole Church". In a few years the Dunmore War opened up , and the three friends Mc Neel nad two Kinnisons went to Lewisburg and joined the expedition to Point Pleasant Oct 10th 1774. They survived that eventful contest , came back but not to remain very long. They wnet back and enlisted in a Company that went from Fredrick County , served during the Revolutionary War then came back to the Little Levels.

Some of the first land grants that were issued by the Commonwealth of Virginia while under the regime of Greenbrier County and are situated in the Little Levels as follows. John Mc Neil 322 Acres in the year of 1783 . N.Kinnison 235 Acres 1789. George Messingbird 413 Acres 1790 situated on the mountain. Samuel Gilleland 248 Acres 1785 John Ewing, 250 Acres 1783. John Ellis, 389 Acres 1789. George and William Clendennin, 52 Acres 1782. James Laird, 300 Acres 1791. John Poage 400 Acres 1783. Jack Treason, 47 Acres, 1783. Elaxander Waddell 300 Acres 1791. Mary Watkins 400 Acres 1792. The above land grants are all found recorded in the Greenbrier Land Grant Books which embrace about 4000 Acres of the Little Levels area.

The following list is found recorded in the Bath County Grant Books and are situated in the Little Levels These grants were issued by the Commonwealth of Virginia while the Little Levels was in Bath County .

Joshua Ewing, 150 Acres 1797. John Erwin, 200 Acres 1811. John Grimes 21 Acres 1823 John Jordan 36 Acres 1801. James Lewis, Jr, 4 Acres 1822. William Wooddell 430 Acres 1799

The foregoing is only a part of the list of of the early settlers of the Little Levels Some of the relatives of the original land owners still have possession of the lands such as the Moors , Mc Neils and Kinnissans and Beards.

Just to the west of Hillsboro is the Droop Mountain Battle ^{field} ~~field~~ which is now a park . To the south of the Greenbrier is the Watoga State Park. To the North East is the famous Cranberry Glades, To the East near Mill point is the site of the Old Indian Fort known as Days Fort, and a little farther east is The the Steven Sewell Cave of Indian Days. In the Town of Hillsboro is the Birth Place and first home ^{of} Pearl Buck, the famous writer and and missionary to China , she was the daughter of ~~of~~ Absolam Sydenstricker , who was a Missionary in China.

Hillsboro was the home of the late Dr Davy Sydenstricker D D. and many other men of highly education. The Town of Hillsboro which is in the heart of the Little Levels, has a large first class High School , a large Graded School two Churches , a Presbyterian , and a Methodist , and has a population as shown in 1940 224. The very highest degree of citizenship is found among the farming class of people in the Little Levels . which was so called because of the acreage of level land

West Virginia Writers' Project

RESEARCH IDENTIFICATION REPORT

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Subject NATURAL SETTING Pocahontas County,
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Source Boyd Stevenson, Attorney, at Monterey Va;
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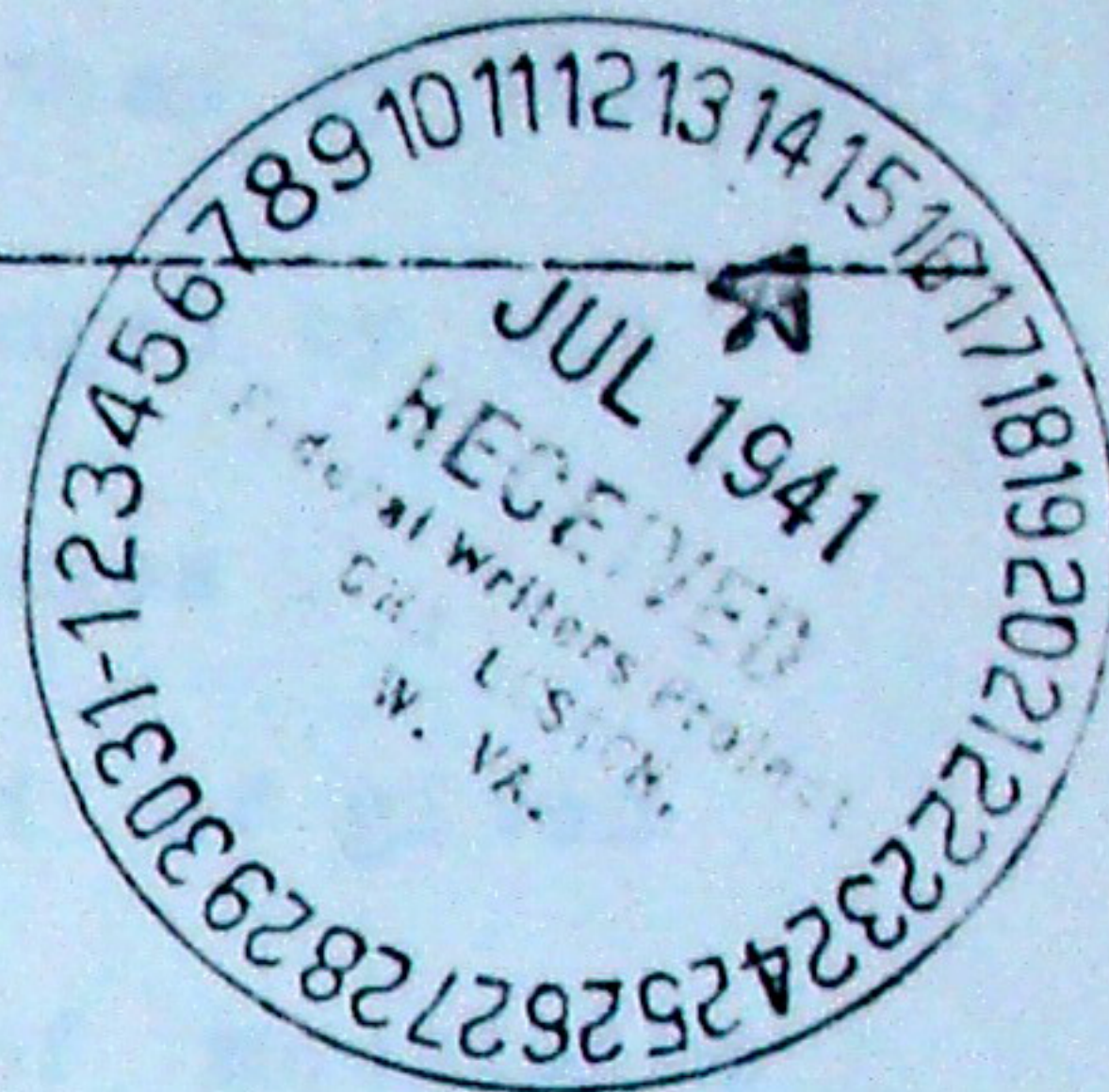
Rev, C.C. Arbogast , told about the Indian on
Frank Mountain,

Historical Sketches of Pocahontas County

made a trip to Frank Mountain , and the

TOP Allegheny Mountain. Public Records at the Clerks Office at Marlinton

- Pocahontas County , WV.



Roscoe W. Brown
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July-12-1941.

Many of the mountains and ridges of Pocahontas County, have received their names from the rivers or creeks that flow near by. In some cases the mountains receive their name from an adjoining stream, or branch,; and the stream or branch may receive its name from the mountains that was so named by the early settlers.

The names of the Mountains, Knobs, and Ridges, have been given them by the early pioneers of the County. Some of the original names have been changed by the U-S, F-S, and the Geological survey have changed some of the names.

The "ALLEGHENY" Mountains is the name that has been applied of given to the principal trunk^{line} of the Appalachian system of ranges of Mountains in the Eastern United States, The word "Appalachian" was first used by the Spaniards under Desoto, in naming the ranges of Mountains, in honor of the Appalachee Indians. Then later was incorrectly called Allegheny.

The word Allegheny derived from the Indian Language, with no certain meaning, : Some people claim that it means in the Indian language, the " Endless Mountains " " Big Mountains " " Big Track " but however it was so named from the Algonquin Indians who were the most prominent of the of the Eastern Indians Their language was the most musical of all Indian languages, avoiding the harsh consonants common in other Indian Language, A large proportion of our Indian Geographical names are Algonquin in origin.

As we follow the main Allegheny Mountains all along the top, on the West Virginia and Virginia line, there are many places that have particular names that is worth keeping in the minds of people.

The Ridge that divides the waters of the Tackets Fork, and the Sutton Run, branches of The North Fork Creek which is the East branch of Deer Creek, is called Little Ridge,; On the western part of this Little Ridge, is a high Knob about 3500 feet in elevation which is called " NEGRO KNOB " and has been so called for about 100 years, the reason for the name is the fact that a Negro Girl is buried on the Knob.